

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 5, 6, 12 and 13 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 7-10 are cancelled, and claim 13 is amended. Support for the amendments to claim 13 can be found, for example, in original claim 13. No new matter is added.

Applicants note that amended claim 13 is broader in scope than previous claim 13. However, claim 13 properly depends from claim 12, which has been indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, claim 13 remains allowable. While claims 7-10 are cancelled herein, Applicants reserve the right to pursue such subject matter in a continuing application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 13 as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claim 13 is amended to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102/§103

The Office Action rejects claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), over U.S. Patent No. 5,130,115 to Fujisou et al. ("Fujisou"), U.S. Patent No. 5,130,114 to Igarashi ("Igarashi"), U.S. Patent No. 5,124,140 to Okada et al. ("Okada") or U.S. Patent No. 5,026,536 to Shioiri et al. ("Shioiri"). By this Amendment, Claims 7-10 are cancelled, rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

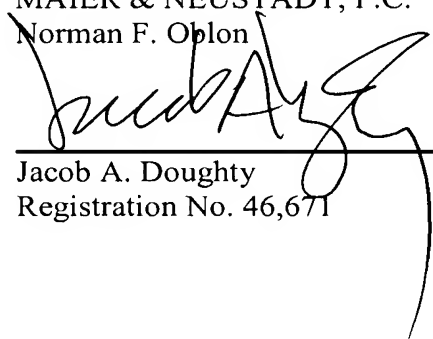
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 2, 5, 6, 12 and 13 are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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